

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A grain immersion method comprising: a step of storing grains of barley for water absorption and water within a pressure-resistant container; a step of reducing the pressure in the pressure-resistant container; and a step of releasing the reduced pressure.

Claim 2 (Original): The grain immersion method according to claim 1, characterized in that the step of releasing the reduced pressure is a step of abruptly restoring the normal pressure.

Claim 3 (Original): The grain immersion method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the pressure reduction in the step of reducing the pressure in the pressure-resistant container is to maintain a degree of vacuum at about 10^{-4} Torr at a certain period.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled).